

In the abstract

Combine all paragraphs into one paragraph.



REMARKS

This application was submitted with informal drawings and formal drawings will be submitted upon allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al. in view of Webb and in further view of Davis, III et al. The Examiner states that Webb discloses an automated voting device consisting of a monitor and states that Wise fails to show one voting station to control the remaining stations. Wise has a separate controller 11. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to allow vote entry controller 11 to function as a vote entry station 12 since the two booths are comprised of the same electronic elements (i.e. printer, keyboard, computer, mass data storage device, and display) and are already interconnected. The Examiner states that vote entry controller 11 could function as a vote entry station 12, however Wise states specifically that the vote entry station is completely controlled by the vote entry controller. In Wise, the central controller is the central point of failure if the controller fails the system is down, whereas in applicant's invention another station may pick up and take over the controlling functions. The Examiner states that Wise did not show an automated voting device utilizing a graphical user interface or any security aspects i.e., an internal password or external security check. The Examiner then utilizes Webb to furnish the security checks and Davis includes a touch screen display. The Examiner states that it would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of the preceding inventors.

The Examiner further rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al. as modified by Webb and Davis, III et al. and further in view of Lohry et al., which involves the entry of the password.

Claims 14-17, 19, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al. in view of Webb.

Here again the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to make a vote entry controller 11 to function as a vote entry station 12 as previously discussed and still operate as a controlling station. The Examiner fails to state how the voter entry station could function as the vote entry controller in Wise or vice versa.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al. in view of Webb as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Graft, III. The Examiner states that Graft, III teaches a lock 32 to be fastened using a key which is only available by precinct officials and that one of ordinary skill could merge the lock 32 taught by Graft, III and the teachings of Wise et al and Webb regarding claim 14, a voting station may be further protected.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has taken a plurality of pieces of prior art each with a portion or some related function to applicant's invention and combined them to anticipate applicant's invention. Applicant submits that the invention is physically and electronically different, performs different functions, and would require a complete redesign for any vote entry controller to be a voting station and a vote entry controller. There is no indication in any of the

references that by having the vote entry station and the voter control station be combined in one modem that you would remove a possibility of a central failure. This would require that the functions of the whole system would continue despite the failure of one modem which includes a voter control system as in applicant's invention.

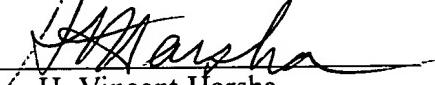
Applicant submits that the combination of portions of these references, none of which suggests they could be combined with the others, does not render the invention obvious.

Applicant submits that the application as now presented is believed in condition for allowance and action to that request is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Fidlar and Chambers Co.,

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